

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-36. (Canceled)

37. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 31, in which the compound is a complex of Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ru, Pd, Ag, Cd, Pt, Au, Rh or Hg, with the proviso that the compound is not haemin or haematin.

38-46. (Canceled)

47. (New) A method of solubilizing A $\beta$  deposited in the brain of an Alzheimer's disease patient, comprising administering to said patient a metal complex, wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of Mn, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ru, Pd, Ag, Cd, Pt, Au, Rh and Hg, and wherein said metal complex binds at least one histidine residue selected from the group consisting of His6, His13 and His14 of the N-terminal loop of  $\beta$ -amyloid peptide and thereby blocks binding of Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup> and/or Fe<sup>3+</sup> ions to said at least one histidine residue.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the complex binds to at least two histidine residues in the N-terminal loop.

49. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the complex binds to at least three histidine residues in the N-terminal loop.

50. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the complex binds to at least one additional amino acid in the N-terminal loop, selected from the group consisting of Asp7, Tyr10 and Glu11.

51. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the complex is able to penetrate the blood-brain barrier.

52. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the complex comprises a targeting moiety selected from the group consisting of polypeptides, nucleic acids, carbohydrates, lipids,  $\beta$ -amyloid ligands, antibodies and dyes.
53. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the targeting moiety has a hydrophobic region which interacts with the tail of the  $\beta$ -amyloid peptide.
54. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the targeting moiety targets the complex to the site defined by residues 15 to 21 of the  $\beta$ -amyloid peptide.
55. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the complex comprises Pt.